

Serial No.: 10/765,708  
Examiner: Loren C. Edwards  
Title: EXHAUST ASSEMBLY  
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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An exhaust assembly for a marine genset, the exhaust assembly ~~A system~~ comprising:

a combustion engine having an exhaust to emit cooling water and exhaust gases; ~~from the exhaust; and~~

a sound-dampening device coupled between the exhaust and a muffler, the sound-dampening device including a tubular member having an inner diameter and two or more rings located on the inner diameter of the tubular member; each ring having an inner surface exposing directly to an exhaust gas passageway in the tubular member, facing directly an inner space of the tubular member, wherein the rings are positioned and adapted to create water droplets as the exhaust gases and the water exit the combustion engine the rings being configured to provide constriction of the passageway which causes mixing of the cooling water with the exhaust gas to reduce noise generated by the combustion engine.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The exhaust assembly system of claim 1, wherein the tubular member includes a flexible exhaust hose for connecting between the exhaust and ~~a the~~ muffler, the flexible exhaust hose having an inner diameter, and the two or more rings are located on the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose.

4. (Currently amended) The exhaust assembly system of claim 1, wherein the tubular member includes an exhaust tube having a first end connectable to the exhaust, the tube including an inner diameter, the inner diameter having the at least two rings

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mounted thereto, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the tube and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the tube pipe.

5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) An exhaust apparatus for a marine genset, comprising:  
a flexible exhaust hose for connecting between a combustion engine and a muffler, the flexible exhaust hose having an inner diameter; and  
two or more rings located on the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose and an inner surface having an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose, each of the inner surfaces of the rings exposing directly to an exhaust gas passageway in the exhaust hose facing directly an inner space of the flexible exhaust hose, wherein the rings are positioned and adapted to create water droplets as exhaust gases and water exit the combustion engine the rings being configured to provide constriction of the passageway which causes mixing of the cooling water with the exhaust gas to reduce noise generated by the combustion engine.
7. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the two or more rings are evenly spaced about 4 1/2 inches apart from each other along a length of the flexible exhaust hose.
8. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the flexible exhaust hose has an outer diameter of about 2 inches.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the length of the flexible exhaust hose is about 6 feet or less.

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11. (Currently amended) An exhaust apparatus for a marine genset, comprising:  
a rigid tube having a first end connectable to an exhaust outlet of a combustion engine, the tube including an ~~uniform~~ inner diameter, the inner diameter having at least two rings mounted thereto, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the tube and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the tube pipe, wherein the rings are adapted to create water droplets as exhaust gases and cooling water exit the combustion engine each ring having an inner surface exposing directly to an exhaust gas passageway in the tube, the rings being configured to provide constriction of the passageway which causes mixing of the cooling water with the exhaust gas to reduce noise generated by the combustion engine.
12. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 11, wherein the tube is a rigid metal pipe.
13. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 11, wherein a second end of the tube is connectable to a flexible marine exhaust hose.
14. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 11, wherein the tube includes a first ring mounted to the first end of the tube and a second ring mounted to a second end of the tube, pipe the first ring and the second ring being 4 to 5 inches apart.
15. (Currently amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 11, wherein the tube and the rings are stainless steel.
16. (Canceled)
17. (New) An exhaust system for a marine genset, the exhaust assembly comprising:  
a combustion engine having an exhaust to emit cooling water and exhaust gases;  
a muffler;

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a water separator;  
an exhaust hose connecting the exhaust and the muffler; and  
an exhaust tube between the exhaust and the exhaust hose, the tube having an inner diameter and two or more rings located on the inner diameter; each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the tube and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the tube, each ring having an inner surface exposing directly to an exhaust gas passageway in the tube, the rings being configured to provide constriction of the passageway which causes mixing of the cooling water with the exhaust gas to reduce noise generated by the combustion engine.

18. (New) The exhaust system of claim 17, wherein the exhaust tube includes a first ring mounted to a first end of the tube and a second ring mounted to a second end opposite to the first end of the tube, the first ring and the second ring being 4 to 5 inches apart.

19. (New) The exhaust assembly of claim 3, wherein the two or more rings are evenly spaced about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches apart from each other along a length of the flexible exhaust hose.

20. (New) The exhaust assembly of claim 4, wherein the exhaust tube includes a first ring mounted to the first end of the tube and a second ring mounted to a second end of the tube, the first ring and the second ring being 4 to 5 inches apart.